

January 31, 2008

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY
MT Department of Transportation Request for Permanent Easement

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is soliciting comments and concerns regarding a request by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to purchase a permanent easement on a tract of school trust land along Highway 83 approximately 3 air miles southeast of Ferndale. The request by MDT is for 12 acres located in the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 12, Township 26 North, Range 19 West, at the site of the old gravel pit and weigh station.

MDT currently leases approximately 11 acres at this location for gravel storage and a loader shed. If the sale of the permanent easement is approved, MDT proposes to construct a highway maintenance facility that would include sand storage sheds, deicer storage, and equipment storage with office space. It is expected that the MDT highway maintenance facility at this site would improve response time and efficiency especially for winter highway maintenance (plowing, sanding, and deicing) between Swan Lake and Bigfork.

If approved, the permanent easement would be sold to MDT at full market value and construction would likely begin mid to late summer of 2008.

An assessment under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) will be completed to determine the natural resource, social, and economic effects of approving the sale of the permanent easement and will include issues identified during the public-involvement process.

Comments will be accepted through close of business **February 19, 2008** and may be sent to:

Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
2250 Hwy 93 N.
Kalispell, MT 59901
Greg Poncin
751-2263
gponcin@mt.gov

Questions or requests for additional information on the proposal may also be directed to the above contact. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Greg Poncin
Kalispell Unit Manager
MT DNRC

Proposed Easement

Twn 26N Rng 19W
Section 12

- Highway 83
- Existing Roads
- DNRC Ownership
- Easement Area
- Sections

